

With his birth on January 13, 1915, in Fitzgerald, Georgia, Raymond Gilbert Davis began a life of service to his fellow Americans. His military career, for which he is best known, commenced after his graduation from the Georgia School of Technology in 1933, where he participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit. In 1938, General Davis resigned his commission with the U.S. Army Infantry Reserve to accept an appointment as a U.S. Marine Corps second lieutenant.

It was General Davis' bravery while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps that proves how this ordinary man was truly one of America's extraordinary heroes. During the Korean War, then Lt. Col. Davis gave this country his most famous demonstration of his unparalleled leadership during the 1st Marine Division's historic break out of the Chosin Reservoir area. During that campaign, in the face of treacherous weather conditions and overwhelming enemy numbers, he led a battalion of Marines to prevent the annihilation of a beleaguered Marine rifle company and secured a mountain pass for the safe deployment of two additional Marine regiments while keeping his own forces intact.

Following this act of bravery, President Truman, who presented the Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Davis on November 24, 1952, wrote, "his valiant devotion to duty and unyielding fighting spirit in the face of almost insurmountable odds enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

General Davis once jokingly told me that was the biggest mistake he ever made because every time Marines were trapped they sent for him. He, of course, was pleased to do whatever his country asked him to do.

General Davis, who also served in World War II and the Vietnam War, culminated his service with an appointment as the Assistant Commandant to the Marine Corps. Following his service in this capacity, General Davis retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1972, and became America's most highly decorated living veteran. His decorations include: the Medal of Honor; the Navy Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Silver Star Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and Gold Star in lieu of a second award; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; the Purple Heart; the Presidential Unit Citation with four bronze stars indicative of second through fifth awards; the Navy Unit Commendation; the American Defense Service Medal with Fleet clasp; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star in lieu of five bronze stars; the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star; the Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars; the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars; the National Order of Vietnam, 4th Class; the National Order of Vietnam, 5th Class; the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with three Palms; two Korean Presidential Unit Citations; the United Nations Service Medal; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

General Davis' devotion to his fellow Americans did not end with his retirement. General Davis was instrumental in the design, funding and construction of the U.S. Korean War Memorial located here in Washington, DC. I was there on the day it was opened. I was as proud of my friend on this occasion as I have

ever been. It struck me that while he was a genuine hero as a military leader, his greatest contributions to his nation may have been what he did over the last 31 years for his fellow veterans. He loved them for their service and they revered him for his leadership.

Then, General Davis played a crucial role in creating U.S.-Korea 2000, an organization that reached out to almost 40,000 veterans of the Korean War in order to allow them to participate in ceremonies associated with the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. In my home state of Georgia, he devoted his time and energy to the construction of the Georgia War Veterans Memorial Park in Rockdale County.

Through the years I have known Ray Davis, not only as a fellow veteran, but also as a friend. His courageous devotion to his comrades, his unyielding fight for the American veteran, and his love for and service to the United States itself are all examples of what it truly means to be an American.

While his military service was exemplary, his post military service deserved just as many medals. I generally open a speech with the request for all veterans in the audience to stand. When they do, they are met, without exception, with the grateful applause of the rest in attendance. Ray Davis taught me that.

When I am in a campaign I always target veterans since, as Ray always reminded me, I should be proud that I am one and should share that fact.

When the Republican Party is in a presidential race, whether 1988, 1992, 1996, or 2000, I could always expect Ray Davis to be escorting our candidate around veterans groups. Indeed, there was no military leader, with the possible exception of Omar Bradley, more revered by the troops, then my friend Ray Davis.

Let me hasten to add that he was never satisfied with our efforts. I was the proud recipient of many letters and phone calls from this American hero reminding me of how many veterans there were and what patriots they were and how little we were doing to appreciate them. I may have disagreed with him once or twice, but I do not recall it. My prayers go to Willa and the family.

America has lost a great warrior and hero. And I have lost a great friend. I shall miss him.

MOTHER TERESA: A MODEL FOR US ALL

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in 1948, Mother Teresa came across a half-dead woman lying in front of a Calcutta hospital. She stayed with the woman until she died. From that point on, she dedicated the majority of her life to helping the poorest of the poor in India. If everyone in the world able to help the poor would donate a small fraction of their time in the spirit of Mother Teresa, the world would be a much better place.

It takes an extraordinary person to "see God in every human being." Almost 50 years later, her Missionaries of Charity has grown from 12 sisters in India to over 3,000 in 517 missions throughout 100 countries worldwide. For 50 years, this remarkable woman has

touched the lives of so many that were in dire need of help.

As we members of Congress go about our daily routines, we would be well served to use Mother Teresa as an example of how we should conduct ourselves. Our duty is public service, and there was no greater servant to mankind than Mother Teresa.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALBERT G. HORTON, JR. OF CHESAPEAKE, VA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Mr. Albert G. Horton, Jr. of Chesapeake, VA for his seemingly endless dedication to the veterans of Virginia.

On September 8, 2003, we will break ground in Suffolk, VA to establish a new National Veterans Cemetery, due largely to the perseverance of Al Horton. In 1996, as a Virginia State Delegate, I created the Virginia Veterans Liaison Committee in an effort to bring veterans together and to give a unified voice to their issues. Al Horton was a member of that committee and that is how I first came to know Al.

In 1997, Al contacted me and asked me to introduce legislation to have a National Veterans Cemetery constructed in the Hampton Roads area. Thus, I began a long fulfilling relationship with this very special man.

During 1998, as a result of a bill I introduced as a member of the Virginia General Assembly, a study was conducted to establish if there was a need for a new National Cemetery within the region. The study concluded there were 173,700 veterans living in the Hampton Roads area who would benefit from such a cemetery. The distance to the closest alternative cemetery site in Amelia is two and a half hours away, and the study concluded that this distance had been a deterrent to veterans' families who wanted to be able to visit the gravesites of their loved ones.

Based upon that study, I worked with Al in his new role as Chairman of the Hampton Roads Veterans' Cemetery Committee to find a site to serve as a final resting place for our nation's veterans. An area in Suffolk, VA was selected and \$650,000 in state-appropriated monies was used to secure purchase of the land. Additional money was appropriated for the design and engineering of the cemetery, but all those funds were to be reimbursed by the federal government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the form of a short-term Treasury loan. The effect of these actions would therefore result in a Veterans' Cemetery for Virginia Veterans that would cost approximately \$8 million with Virginia only paying approximately \$650,000.

Al Horton worked tirelessly, with the help of veterans around the state, organizing, leading and overcoming many hurdles to make his vision of a veterans' cemetery in Hampton Roads a reality. He even wrote a book, "Grass Roots Politics, If You Don't Like It—Change It!!" which details his experience as an ordinary citizen accomplishing the goal of getting something as great as the Veterans Cemetery at Hampton Roads accomplished.

I only wish Al was still with us to see the result of all his hard work. He passed away on